

July 6th, 1948.

Dear Cowins,

This is Tuesday, usually my Xray afternoon. But my poor xray in broken and may need to await repair parts from USA. So I am free to write a few letters. All other afternoons are full of operations.

I'm as busy as an old hen with ducks and love it - because I am doing what I like best to do - surgery. We have been rather cagy in selecting our cases for operation, also have turned things over to the Lord when we could go no farther in other cases; so have lost very few cases, even those that seemed hopeless. As a result everyone comes to us asking for xray and surgery, whether it is indicated or not. When I suggest surgery there is no argument. They accept my suggestion with more confidence than I feel myself. Well, it is worth a lot to the doctor when his patients believe in him. He can always do much more for them under those conditions.

There is OH so much that I can't do. How I do need another missionary doctor and a first rate Chinese doctor or two. Then we could take care of the demands upon our services that are now unmet. I keep- ing my nose to the surgical grindstone I neglect my medical cases frightful- ly. If it is something easily recognized it's OK for the patient. But if it takes much study - I just can't do it. If we had someone to take over the xray work, that would take every afternoon of the week. As is I can give only Tuesday afternoon to it - and then I overwork the xray so on that afternoon that it breaks down and there is no xray service in all of Central Anhwei Province, for maybe three months.

Grace has taken over all of the Hospital accounts, reports to the Mission, reports to contributing agencies like the International Relief Commission (IRC), China Relief Mission (CRM), etc. These IRC and CRM reports are detailed for they help us with Inpatient charity cases and require lots of red tape reports to send back to their contributors. Grace is also Station Treasurer and has to keep cash on hand for station business, repairs, etc. Now that is some job at this time when you dare not keep this Chinese money on hand because it loses by inflation at an ever accelerated rate - last month 100%. Money taken in or received from the Mission, or from contributions if in US Dollars is OK; but as soon as it is in CNC Dollars it must be spent for salaries and wages, lumber, cement, rice, gasoline, or other commodities immediately. And since everyone else is doing this, the prices are wild, out of all reason, so you lose every way. I can know that lumber I buy can be made into hospital furniture, etc. But I can't figure out any good way to hold the needed ever rising wages of the carpenters, painters, masons, etc. that have to do the work. So this we try to estimate and hold in US Dollars, get it exchanged long enough in advance to meet this need and get it here from Shanghai in time and not too soon. And this year it is a rainy season and mails don't move in wet weather. So Grace keeps the telegrams going to our Nanking Mission office handling her financial deals.

Grace's Well Baby project is doing well. The Rotary Club is now only paying for salaries and wages. The Church World Service (CWS) is taking care of clothing, food, etc. for this project. We just received a second shipment, freight paid to Hofei, on 60 x 100 lbs. of Texas and Kansas white flour, 300 x 5 lbs. of Whole powdered milk, 25 x 100 lbs. of used clothing. We have 100 refugee kiddies in the Rotary School now. Today they are taking examinations. They have been schooled, fed, and clothed. The teachers are Christian volunteer women. The kiddies have accomplished more this year than the students in similar grades in our Mission school. At present inflationary prices the powdered milk is worth 3 billion Chinese dollars. The flour about 1 billion dollars. Exchange is about 4 million to US\$1.00 now.

Grace hasn't figured her hospital accounts for June yet; but here are a few interesting items that we do have.

Fees from inpatients.....	CNC\$1,195,145,000
Fees from Outpatients.....	621,155,000
Allocations from IRC-CRM.....	72,000,000

Contributions used from Corpron Rehab.Fund..... US\$126.54
(drafts written to USA for med. books, equip.)

Ryan Mem. Fund for paint for hospital..... US\$381.93

We have a notice from IRC that they have another allocation for our May inpatient charity cases of CNC\$146,000,000 as soon as all red tape is complied with. They pay all inpatient charity, but we must care for our Outpatient charity from UNRRA supplies, fees, etc.

We are still carrying on without requesting help from the China Mission Budget other than missionary salaries, summer travel fares, children allowances and school expenses (which of course is considerable). Before the war the hospital share of the China Mission budget was usually the largest item. UNRRA supplies on hand make this possible. When these are used up it will be a different story.

Our China missionaries are obtaining passage to Kuling as these are obtainable now. Some have already been there over a week. We all want to make it before August first for the week of the Summer Missionary Conference. We had hoped to obtain plane passage from Nanking (paying the extra ourselves) in order to be able to stay on the job as long as possible. But the planes have been taken off of this run this week to save gasoline. So we are trying to get boat passage on or about July 24th. Grace Young was to have gone on a June 30th boat, but rains prevented, and then she got sick with dysentery and is now only out of bed a few days. We will have to take the first chance out of Hofei in dry weather between July 15th and the 20th in order to be reasonably sure of making a July 24th boat. Do you appreciate your regular scheduled Grey Hounds and trains, and planes?

We are doing most of our living off of our good garden, thanks to Harold Adams. Lettuce, beets, carrots, kaularabbi, sweet corn, new potatoes, swiss chard, tomatoes, onions, string beans are all out of our garden. Our yard is beautiful thanks to the lawn mower that

much thought out with her. The swimming pool (built in 1935 with a gift from

Just after your accident we discovered the chimney chute which finally led us to the top. We had to again take our shoes off and tie them to our belts. Barefooted we could ascend this chute by pressing hands and feet against the opposing walls. It was rather easy going at that. This chute took us to a point near the top.

We looked about only a few minutes before the sun went down behind the western rim of the Tieton Basin. We had to hurry back down this same side to the foot of the cliff, where Walter was awaiting us. At a double quick down thru the woods we reached the cow path trail that led back toward the South Fork of the Tieton River. We followed this in the dark, feeling the path under foot and searching out the clear strip of night sky overhead, that was left by the woodsmen who had cleared this trail.

Finally we found it too difficult to follow the trail and decided to try to reach the road on the other side of the basin, the road that skirted the foot of Westfall Rocks and ran past our Y Camp site. When we came to a small clearing we were able to recognize the outline of Westfall against the night sky. We decided to work our way blindly thru the dense brush of the forest to the river, try to ford the river somewhere, and then head for the road. With both forearms held before our faces, to protect our eyes from the brush we slowly worked our way thru. Several times we were frightened by heavy animals disturbed by our approach and which started running thru the woods. We wondered if they might not be bear; but hoped they were only cows.

We came to the Tieton River, below the point where the South Fork joined it, and as luck would have it we forded it without difficulty with our clothes on our heads. We soon found the road and arrived in camp about 10 PM.

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Ruth and Mary are with us in Hefei. They are spending much of every day in our private swimming pool. About July 20th we all leave for the Kuling mountains, Chiang Kai-Shek's Summer Capital. We have our own shack there (Lot 129B, Kuling, Kiangsi); our house survived the war without any of its complete furnishings; I spent US\$325.00 last summer for repairs; so it is ready - bare - for our use. We will take some canvas cots, air mattresses, bedding, and cooking utensils up with us this time, and have some rough furniture made there. All of our China Christian missionaries are converging on Kuling now for our August first Conference. We will take the girls directly from Kuling to their fall term of school in the Shanghai American School about Sept. 13th.

I am still kept busy with surgery. I have had good luck

with all of my cases so they are coming from hundreds of miles about asking for xray and surgery - whether that is indicated or not. No refusals offered when I suggest surgery. It often frightens me, for they have more confidence in my surgery than I do myself - not knowing the risks I often have to take for them in the operating room. But I am having my fun under such conditions.

If only the communists and inflation could leave us in peace. Inflation continues to bother us more than communists. I have to double salaries monthly at this stage of the game to keep my staff able to buy rice and fuel to cook it. Prices often change several times daily. Salaries are now paid weekly. Income must be spent in things immediately. This complicates things in operating a large hospital. Checks on Shanghai banks can no longer be cashed in the banks on our street, for they lose too much before they get them to Shanghai. With UNRRA supplies still on hand we try to charge fees enough to just pay Chinese salaries and wages and do domestic buying. Still I do have to make some Shanghai purchases. This is now only possible because I have gifts from American friends in USA to draw upon. Gold drafts are eagerly sought after and I can have them cashed and the CNC\$ deposited in my Shanghai bank account. But these must be immediately spent or they take a great loss in a week. It's an interesting gamble.

Doug Jr. insists he is going to medical school in preparation for the medical work in China. He is now trying to pull "strings" through our Mission Board to get into Yale Medical School, after two more years of pre-med. work in Chapman College, Los Angeles. Would you know any "tricks" about how to get him into that school, providing his grades are B average in Chapman College? Any suggestions would greatly oblige him. He is working in a Y summer Boys Camp in California this summer, as swimming instructor and advisor. If you have anything to suggest to him about Yale please drop him a line to. His summer address is Care- Camp Round Meadows, Los Angeles YMCA, Seven Oaks, Calif. His fall address is Care - Chapman College, 766 No. Vermont, Los Angeles 27, Calif.

I have been wondering if you still have any plans for visiting China. I hope it is to be before we return to USA, probably for good. Our proposed retirement date is now set for 1952. But we may not be able to leave then for so far there is no one available to take over in our stead. The young doctor headed this way died with novocaine anaesthesia before a proposed tonsillectomy a few months ago. Of course if you get the Democratic nomination and presidential election this year, that will alter your plans. Our radio says you and Ike and Harry are on the list.

Sincerely yours,

E. J. Corpron
Doug.

院 醫 督 基 肥 合

LUCHOWFU CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL

Kuling, Kiangsi, ~~//////////~~ HOFEI, ANHWEI, CHINA.
August 23, 1948.

The Yakima Rotary Club,
Yakima, Wash., USA.

Dear Friends,

I am writing to report on further news of the use made of your last gift to the Rotary Friendship Project. I am in Kuling, vacationing in the mountains at this moment. We are living in our mountain cabin, which was thoroughly looted of all its furnishings during the war and Japanese occupation, but was not destroyed, and could be repaired for use. I had said good-bye to this place long ago, and consider its recovery as a gift from some unknown relative. We had to pay out about US\$500.00 for the repairs; but would have had to pay out US\$250.00 in rent this year if we hadn't this place. So in two years time we will be clear on the repair bill.

The Rotary Friendship Project finished a very successful season in July last, with the summer closing of the Free School. One hundred refugees' kiddies had had a full term of schooling, supplemented by food and clothing. They were all happy, healthy, and are the best prospects in the world as life long friends and boosters for America. I know of no better method of bringing direct relief to needy children, nor of any better way to insure a lasting friendship for America than these children will have all of their lives. To them American contributing friends are like some good grandmother or grandfather they have never seen, who is sending them frequent gifts by mail.

We are carefully using the \$500.00 you have given for this year's use; reserving it for salaries and wages only. Much of our help is voluntary, but we do have a half of the directors salary and that of a teacher and a charwoman to pay. In order to conserve this gift we had to let the director divide her time half and half between the Rotary project and the Hospital, so that the hospital could be asked to pay a half of her salary, and help out that much. In the hospital she now supervises the kitchen and diets for the inpatients. Because the Rotary Project was in operation and a going affair, we have been able to drag in relief supplies from other sources, UNRRA, CNRRA, International Relief Committee, Church World Service, etc. to carry on this project; for the Rotary contribution couldn't begin to pay for the milk, flour, vitamin tablets, powdered soup, cod liver oil, clothing, and other relief supplies that are needed for these kiddies.

The Chinese currency is so inflationary now that we dare cash in on only \$50.00 to \$100.00 at a time, leaving your contribution in US Dollars until needed. Now a new currency is being issued. We wonder if it will go hog wild like others have. It probably will as long as this civil war continues.

Best wishes to you all. Wish I could drop in on you some Thursday noon.

Sincerely yours,

Doug
Doug Corpron

Sept. 13th, 1948.

Dear Cowins,

Just back from our summer's vacation yesterday, and strange to relate we do not need to recuperate. As they say, the definition of a Vacation is - something preceded by Anticipation and followed by Recuperation. But that is not true in our case. We had a wonderful rest mentally, spiritually, as well as physically. Our mountain top retreat was the safest place in China from Communists and bandits, as the President Chiang and Madame Chiang were there part of the time, with all trails up from the broad valley well guarded. Kuling Mountain sticks up 4,000 ft. out of the broad plane, so you can see for miles and miles in all directions. All of the passing clouds stick to this top in passing.

While there we left our hospital entirely in the hands of our Chinese staff - our own students. They carried on in a fine way and did excellent medical and surgical work. One unfortunate incident is turning out to be a blessing. A patient committed suicide by sneaking out at night and drowning himself in one of our wells. At first a few of his friends got nasty and tried to stir up a lot of trouble in court for us. A chance to make a bit of money by a group of outsiders with a little anti-foreign tendencies.

Dr. Kung, our fine woman doctor, proved herself a regular Portia in the trial court. In China there is a preliminary trial court, where the judge hears both sides and decides whether there is a case or not. In this trial court hearing Dr. Kung got up and after claiming that we had no way to prevent the patient from doing what he had done, disclaiming all responsibility, she started telling about the policy of the hospital as a Christian service for creating international friendship. She told them that this was our 50th year of giving the only medical service to this district. She related how there remained only a shell of a building after the Japanese Occupation; how she and other members of our former staff returned and made a start at caring for sick; how I sent money to her for the salaries of this beginning staff until after I had returned and the Mission again sent financial aid. She said that the Chinese staff wrote to me begging me to return and help them rehabilitate the hospital; how I had responded to this call; had closed a good practice of my own for exactly 1/10th the salary I was making; had left my old mother and one precious son (an appealing argument to a Chinese) to return to this work. She hoped that the people of Hofei would not discourage me in my good intentions by allowing the hospital to be persecuted and make me want to return to my good practice, my mother and my only son, and leave Hofei without this good hospital, the only place where good surgery is now being done.

At this point the judge banged his fist down onto the desk and in a loud voice said, "Of course we citizens of Hofei will not allow this persecution to go on. If there is anyone to make trouble they must make it for us not this hospital." Then an elderly gentle-

man, a Mr. Chang, a man of prominence in this community, got up and said, "Many years ago (about 15 years) a boy fell into a cesspool. A call was sent to the Christian Hospital for help. I saw Dr. Corpron come in answer to this call and get himself all smeared up with the filth on this boy's body and clothing, while he was giving artificial respiration to try to save the boy's life. We want such a man to remain among us and continue his service of mercy. We need to give him a big vote of thanks. I propose that we have made a banner thanking him for his service to this city."

Over one billion dollars was raised spontaneously to properly show the hospital the thanks of the people of the city of Hefei for the service the Hospital had been giving. So we are all feeling very good about the feeling of the local people toward us and our efforts. The only protection we have is such friendship. There is no such thing as Medical Insurance in China. It really is a very dangerous thing to try to do surgery under such conditions, for so often we see neglected cases and take the small chance they have left of help, and in so doing lay ourselves open to court proceedings, if someone wants to make something of it.

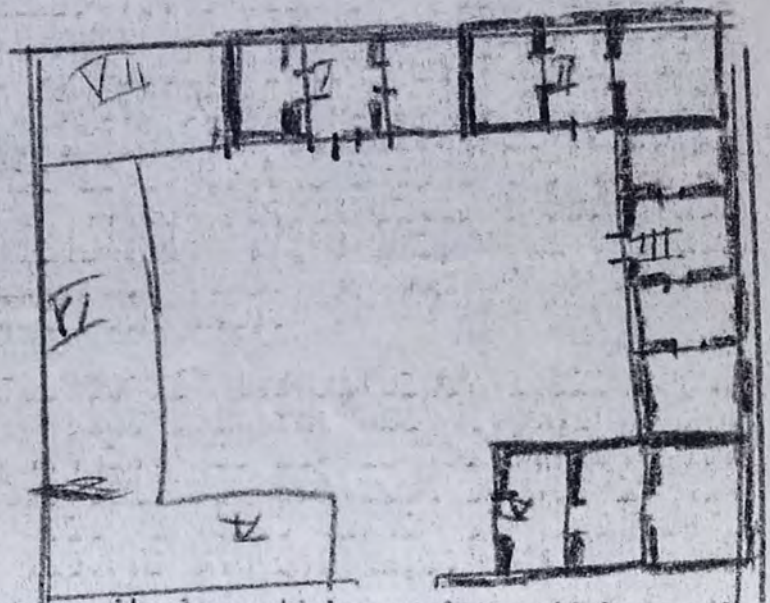
From Kuling we travelled by train, instead of the usual route down the Yangtze River, to Shanghai; via Kiukiang, Nanchang, Hangchow. It is a newly opened up route, and not bad. We had to take Mary and Ruth back to their school in Shanghai; and I had to do some hospital business. While there I got a few spare parts for the "Washington". A new piston was needed, as something punched a hole in the top of one of the six, last year. I got all new piston rings to put in while we have it apart. This is somewhat of a major operation in Hefei where there is no crane. We have to build up an overhead beam and borrow a large chain block and tackle from the city light plant boys. When we have to do any major servicing like this we get help from the mechanics at the city light plant. Their generator is powered by an identical Gray Marine engine, like that in our boat.

I am trying to get Mr. Joe Smith, new rural evangelist just out for the Wuhu-Wuwei district, to take over the "Washington" for his rural work, which is mostly along canals. He may do it. But at present hesitates to do it because Communist bandits have been so bad in his district that he hasn't even been able to visit Wuwei yet, and has had to confine himself mostly to the study of the language. Also he needs more of a budget to pay for the fuel and oil for the operation of this boat. But it is ideal for his work, for he can live right on the boat. Most of the time I haven't the time to give to the operation of the boat. I am tied down to my surgery. But when the younger men get going they will no doubt find it just what they need. In the meantime I want to keep it in good running order in case of an emergency evacuation of our Hefei missionaries, as happened this time last year. It is about time for another fall communist offensive.

Hofei Station is now making plans for our Fiftieth Anniversary. We think it will be held in November. It is also the Fiftieth " of the founding of this hospital by Dr. Butchart. We expect to have several days of program, with speeches by prominent citizens, letters from former missionaries still living, the unveiling of a stone tablet explaining the Ryan Memorial Rehabilitation Fund, presentation of a Butchart Memorial, given by his brother, and the honoring of two first baptized Christians in this church, Mrs. Hsia and Mrs. Chang, the only two still living that we can find.

The Ryan Memorial Fund is at present building the benches for our hospital chapel. It has just finished about thirty bedside tables and fifth bedside stools. It has also bought roof paint for our two tin roofs, which are to be painted right away. It also bought paint for all the hospital walls, to be applied during this winter, when work is lighter. This will make them washable walls. At present we had to do the best we can with a tinted white wash. If this new currency reform pans out and inflation stops (which would be too good to be true), and the communists leave us alone this winter, I may get up courage enough to start the court for the families of our hospital laborers. This is our most urgent present need. We have the land and materials are now available. This court will be of brick and tile roofs, one story, built Chinese style, in a rectangular court, the backs all presenting as a solid wall to the street, and the fronts opening inward onto a common court yard.

This sketch gives a general idea of what I have in mind, but not the interior arrangement, which would be made to suit Chinese family life. At present they are housed in mud-walled, thatched roofed buildings, more than fifteen years old, which are falling down here and there with every rain. Many have crumbled altogether so they can't be used any more.



The Rotary Friendship Fund of US\$500.00 was repeated again this year. It is only enough to pay salaries for the Children's Relief Project. But because it does this we have this work going and it brings in much relief goods, clothing, food, milk, etc. enough to supply the needs. A part of it is Grace's infant feeding project, where she teaches mothers to make and give milk formulas to their babies. It probably is the only such project in China outside of a larger hospital. She has over 100 babies being benefited. We receive all the free milk we need for this successful project from Church World Service.

Sincerely yours,

Doug.

Sept. 15, 1948.

Lay & Word Electric Co.,
112 So. Second St.,
Yakima, Wash., USA.

Gentlemen:-

I am in urgent need of several spare parts for my two Onan electric generators. You obtained many spare parts for Mrs. Corpron just before she returned to China last fall. I hope you will obtain and send to me by Airplane post as soon as possible the following:-

For my Onan, Model W3M, Serial 9117193, AC volts 115, Watts 3000,
Amps 26.1, cycles 60, phase 1, RPM 1800, Gen. No 17741
WICO Magneto, Type C 1088D, Serial No 101152, parts:-
lpcCat. No. X2732, No. on broken part P2485, Gear Housing Assembly 2 Cy
lpc " " X3132, " " " " P3109E, Distributor Cap Group 2 "
(Vertical Terminal Opening Upward)
(Screw Type)

Also:-

Part No. 1261 Armature Ball Bearing

For my Onan, Model W2S 150, Serial 85.256659, AC 115V, 2 KVA, 2000W,
Amps 17.5, Cycles 60, Phase 1, RPM 1800, Gen. No 242306
Ref. No 6, Part No 510A1 Armature Ball Bearing 1 pc.

Sincerely yours,

D. S. Corpron
D.S. Corpron, MD.

Dear Friends in USA, 1948 - Sept/Oct

Christmas Greetings from war torn China. This is Grace's side of the page in our yearly letter. You have no doubt been looking to see us come home, but as has been the case in the past the older, experienced missionaries have decided to stick it out and be of service in time of trouble. Hefei is peaceful as far as actual fighting occurs. We are heavily garrisoned and fortified and we bump into soldiers everywhere and wake up to the tune of their bugles.

Just a year ago last month I arrived in China. What have I been able to do to merit the big expense involved in sending the girls and me out here? First we have made this big house into a home by cleaning it up and slowly adding upstairs furniture. This last month it has been part of the hospital with Mr. Goulter occupying one room with a hernia operation and Grace Young in the other with a broken ankle. I am happy to report they are both recovered.

The hardest job has been station treasurer. First Mr. Haskell had to show me how to keep his system of accounts, and then I had to learn to use and count this crazy inflated currency and keep track of the work of several masons, painters and carpenters. I had even forgotten the names of such common things as lime and cement and the first month or so was hard sledding. By the middle of the summer the inflation got so bad that my accounts were in ten figures and Mr. Haskell took a picture of me on his steps with a billion dollars on my lap. It was in \$50,000 bills but still the whole billion was only worth US\$150.00. We spent it in one month fixing up our Kuling house.

August brought the new reformed currency and we all had high hopes for a while that it might be stabilized. Now it too is going bad and prices are so high that no one can afford to buy anything. A tailor charges \$50.00 to alter a coat and that is a month's salary for a teacher. Pork costs \$6.00 a pound and it spoils in the stands because no one can afford to buy it. Last week the Government raised exchange and we have hopes of prices adjusting themselves.

Personally we still eat well because of so many relief supplies. I have hundreds of cans in my store room and now that the Adsit family has gone home we have all their winter's stores to buy as we need. Also this is a gorgeous fall, one beautiful sunny day after another. Our fall gardens are wonderful. Last night we made a vegetable salad of six different things and there are several others we did not use. We have American relief flour from Newton, Kansas and my cook makes good bread and cakes and cookies. We have ten guests every Friday night and show our Chinese friends that we can get along without rice.

My baby feeding clinic is the most satisfying thing I do. We have supplies of powdered milk, vitamins, flour and a magic vitamin powder called Provic. We use it in all baby formulas and it produces some of the most amazing gains I have ever seen. Some days I have three or four babies that have gained four pounds a week and that is something I seldom saw in the USA. Of course these babies are thin and hungry when I take them in and when they get food they gain fast. We have been doing this for a year and now I have a big group that are a year old and can get along on Chinese food. In several cases I have graduated the big baby and taken in a new one born to the same mother. These poor folks have no birth control. These materials are all supplied by Church World Service and I have the great privilege and responsibility for giving it out wisely and thus representing the American friends who gave so generously in the Week of Compassion. The most amazing thing in this clinic is my twin collection. To date we have fifteen pair who are brought in regularly for weighing and feeding advice. Several pair are motherless and are being raised by a father or grandmother. Twins used to be bad luck but now they seem to be quite popular. Can you see why I do not want to leave my babies?

Yours in His service, Grace Coppen

We had a wonderful summer vacation in the Kuling mountains last summer. Our little cottage had miraculously survived the war. We invested some of our savings in fixing it up so that it was as good as new. Whenever we leave it we wonder if we will ever again be privileged to use it again. We probably will, But if not, Doug., Jr. may use it some day, for he says he will be a missionary some day.

Doug., Jr. announced his engagement to Helen Ball, a school-mate in Chapman College, Los Angeles. The October announcement makes us feel at least a few years older than we did in September. He is in his third year in a pre-medical course combined with religious courses.

Mary and Ruth are working very hard in Shanghai American School. They found that students in American High schools are practically "studylless students" for the most part. They had thought they were pretty good in Yakima; but found that they were just plain dumb. It has taken them one whole year to learn how to study and get up to average standing in this private school of high scholarship. It has been good for them - though they didn't appreciate it last year; and it will be a fine introduction to college work. They have had fine missionary kids to make friends with, and are beginning to miss their good American friends less as time goes on.

Rehabilitation of our Christian Hospital is nearly completed. Another year would do it. This year is the fiftieth Anniversary of the founding of this medical work by Dr. James Butchart in 1898. It is also the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of Corprons arrival in China to carry on this work for the second 25-year period. On November 29th there is to be a big celebration in honor of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Hospital, also of the Hofei Christian Church, and the Fortieth Anniversary of the Coo Memorial Christian Girls' School. At the time of the celebration a tablet is to be unveiled in honor of the Ryan Memorial Rehabilitation Fund of US\$25,000.00, which was given by Yakima Christian Church friends, to rehabilitate this hospital for further Christian medical service in Hofei.

As a result, we have 80 beds full all of the time; daily clinics of about 100 outpatients; a Nurses Aid Training School with nine girls and three boy students; a staff of fifty; mostly Christians; we have done 600 operations this year (twice as many as ever before); we have enormous supplies of drugs and equipment received from UNRRA-CNRRA, IRC, and Church World Service; we are stocked for the winter with rice, coal, gasoline, kerosene, diesel oil, etc. - ready for a long siege if the war isolates us from the outside world, as it well might; we have big supplies of bricks, cement, lumber, etc. to build our much needed hospital laundry annex (this is now held up by the threatening war situation only 100 miles from us).

We have had plenty of warnings by our American Consular authorities about the possible dangers right ahead. We are taking things into our own hands from now on. But we have decided to try to weather the storm and be of what service we can in the period of battle and readjustment under whatever government is in power afterwards. After a good and satisfying life of missionary service in Hofei during the past 25 years, and this likely to be the last term of service, we feel that it is our duty to make this a good ending to our story, if it is at all possible.

So wish us the same Merry and Safe Christmas that we are wishing for all of you. May our prayers meet and blend together at the Throne of God.

D. M.